



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
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### **Suicide Prevention Coalition Targets Youth Suicide Prevention**

Bismarck, N.D. – The North Dakota Suicide Prevention Coalition, which works to decrease the rates of attempted and completed suicides by North Dakota youth, held its first meeting March 5, 2007, in Bismarck, N.D.

Organized by the North Dakota Department of Health's Suicide Prevention Program, the coalition is a collaboration of institutions and agencies that serve the youth of North Dakota. Coalition members represent schools, juvenile justice systems, foster care systems, substance abuse and mental health programs, and organizations that support children and youth within the state and tribal domains.

The Suicide Prevention Program is funded by the Garrett Lee Smith State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention Grant provided by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The grant funds programs designed to build on the foundation of prior suicide prevention efforts in order to support states and tribes in developing and implementing statewide or tribal youth suicide prevention and early intervention strategies grounded in public/private collaboration. Under this grant, the North Dakota Suicide Prevention Coalition will target suicide prevention in youth ages 10 to 24 and will focus on the six areas of the state that have the highest rates of youth suicide.

For more information about the prevention of youth suicide, contact Dorcas Kunkel, Suicide Prevention Project director, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4580 or visit the Suicide Prevention Resource Center website at [www.sprc.org/about\\_sprc/index.asp](http://www.sprc.org/about_sprc/index.asp).

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